

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A communications system, comprising:  
a plurality of media terminal adapters;  
a telephone line; and  
a gateway configured to exchange voice and data packets between a network and  
each of the media terminal adapters over the telephone line.

10 2. The communications system of claim 1 wherein one of the media terminal adapter  
comprises a telephony device.

15 3. The communications system of claim 2 wherein the telephony device comprises  
a telephone.

20 4. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway is configured to  
exchange the voice and data packets between the network and the media terminal adapters by  
converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the network and a second  
format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from  
the second format.

25 5. The communications system of claim 4 wherein one of the media terminal  
adapters comprises a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

30 6. The communications system of claim 5 wherein the telephone comprises a voice  
processing engine configured to convert between the voice packets having the second format and  
an analog voice signal in a voiceband frequency.

35 7. The communications system of claim 4 further comprising a telephone, and  
wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises an adapter configured to exchange the  
voice packets on the telephone line having the second format with analog voice in a voiceband  
frequency.

8. The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway comprises a cable  
modem.

